

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Rec'd PCT/PTO

08 OCT 2004

International Application No.

PCT/GB 03/01634

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
 IPC 7 A47G1/06 A47G1/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A47G G09F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|--|
| X | GB 762 220 A (JONES) 28 November 1956 (1956-11-28) figure 1 page 1, line 62 - line 70 page 1, line 81 - line 84 page 2, line 38 - line 40 --- | 1,2,5,7, 8,10-13, 15,16, 21, 23-28, 31,32, 44-46 |
| X | NL 30 051 C (BERNSTEIN) 16 January 1933 (1933-01-16) figure 1 --- | 1-5,7,8 |
| | --- -/-- | |



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- *L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- *T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- *X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- *Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- *&* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

31 July 2003

Date of mailing of the international search report

08/08/2003

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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| C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | |
|--|--|-----------------------|
| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
| X | DE 90 06 348 U (ANGELE) | 1-5 |
| A | 20 September 1990 (1990-09-20) figures 1,2B | 16 |
| X | US 2 486 174 A (KISSLING) 25 October 1949 (1949-10-25) figures | 1,2,5, 7-9 |

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Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 33-43
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
see FURTHER INFORMATION sheet PCT/ISA/210

3. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

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FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

Continuation of Box I.2

Claims Nos.: 33-43

In view of the large number of claims (46 claims, of which 7 are independent claims) and also the wording of the claims presently on file, which render it difficult, if not impossible, to determine the matter for which protection is sought, the present application fails to comply with the clarity and conciseness requirements of Article 6 PCT (see also Rule 6.1(a) PCT) to such an extent that a meaningful search is impossible.

In the present case and at first sight the claimed subject-matters are so numerous and different that they simply preclude the detailed analysis necessary to come to a firm conclusion regarding to the essential technical features of the invention and also the unity of the present application.

Independent product claims 33, 34, 36, 39 and 40 differ from independent product claim 1, in that they are drafted by means of removing features and/or adding features, lacking thus conciseness and clarity about the subject-matter to be searched.

Consequently, the search has been carried out for those parts of the application which do appear to be well defined, clear and concise, namely claims 1-32, 44 & 45 (as far as dependent on claim 1) and 46.

The applicant's attention is drawn to the fact that claims relating to inventions in respect of which no international search report has been established need not be the subject of an international preliminary examination (Rule 66.1(e) PCT). The applicant is advised that the EPO policy when acting as an International Preliminary Examination Authority is normally not to carry out a preliminary examination on matter which has not been searched. This is the case irrespective of whether or not the claims are amended following receipt of the search report or during any Chapter II procedure. If the application proceeds into the regional phase before the EPO, the applicant is reminded that a search may be carried out during examination on before the EPO (see APO Guideline C-VI, 8.5), should the problems which led to the Article 17(2) declaration be overcome.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

Inventor Application No

PCT/GB 03/01634

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | Publication date |
|---|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| GB 762220 | A | 28-11-1956 | NONE |
| NL 30051 | C | NONE | |
| DE 9006348 | U | 20-09-1990 | DE 9006348 U1 20-09-1990 |
| US 2486174 | A | 25-10-1949 | NONE |